



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH March 15, 2013

Jewel Mullen MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, (860) 509-7101

Senate Bill 968 - An Act Concerning Reports Of Nurse Staffing Levels

The Department of Public Health appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 968 and would like to offer the following comments for your consideration.

While this bill requires hospitals to report to the Department of Public Health (DPH) the actual staffing levels for each patient care unit, as well as a prospective annual plan for staffing, it is unclear how the Department would utilize this data.

Staffing is reviewed during each inspection visit to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Additionally, observations are made to ensure that the staffing levels meet not only the minimum requirements, but are also adequate to comprehensively and consistently meet patient needs. Staffing levels are only one consideration when assessing the quality of patient care. The ratio of registered nurses to other staff, and the intensity of registered nurse supervision provided to all staff disciplines is a more significant indicator of quality.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*